## **Leading post 9/11 Veterans Organizations**

The leading, community-based, post 9/11 Veterans Organizations are Student Veterans of America (SVA), Team Red, White and Blue (TRWB), Mission Continues, Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), and Team Rubicon. These national veterans organizations are different from the traditional veterans service organizations (VSOs) in that they focus more on local engagement and community-based programs. They also don't have a large DC presence and rely heavily on regional paid staff and volunteers to operate their programs/ chapters.



Student Veterans of America: focus is higher education. They help transitioning service members and veterans make informed educational decisions about college/ GI Bill, provide support to veterans in college through 1,000+ on-campus chapters, and assist veterans seeking employment after college. A list of SVA's chapters can be found <a href="here">here</a>. Their chapters are located on college campuses and many local leaders turnover annually because they are students.



<u>Team RWB</u>: focus is local, consistent community engagement and physical fitness. They connect veterans to their community through physical fitness events, community service projects, and social activities in over 140 communities. They use a regional model with full time staff throughout the country managing their chapters. They are very effective at engaging veterans in their communities. A list of Team RWB chapters can be found <a href="here">here</a>.



Mission Continues: focus is community service projects. They empower veterans who are adjusting to life at home to find purpose through community impact that is focused around community service projects. They use a regional model with full time staff in larger cities throughout the country. Members join one of 40+ "service platoons" to do community projects, gaining skills and building relationships. A list of their platoons can be found here.



Wounded Warrior Project: focus is supporting wounded veterans. They provide opportunities for wounded veterans to improve their lives through various physical and mental health programs. They raised nearly \$400 million last year and help fund some of the other organizations. They are rebuilding their brand since the recent scandal and VA works with them. They have more paid staff than any other group. A list of their offices and locations can be found here.



<u>Team Rubicon</u>: focus is disaster response. They leverage the skills and experience of veterans and first responders to help communities in need. They are HQ centric organization with many of their employees in their LA office. While not responding to disasters, they host training and community improvement events. Their paid staff is aligned to the FEMA district model. Their organizational structure and list of leaders can be found here.

## Other notable post 9/11 organizations:



<u>Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America</u>: focus is advocating and empowering veterans. They are an outspoken critic of VA but also partner with VA on mutual interests. A majority of their staff is in DC, NYC, and California. They facilitate local "Vet Togethers" for veterans to meet one another. Sizeable membership distribution list but not organized at the community level.



Got Your 6: focus is public relations. GY6 is a campaign that unites nonprofit, Hollywood, and government partners. They portray veterans in a positive way and as civic assets that help our nation and communities. Other than Storytellers, they don't execute any local programs. However, they lead a coalition of other veteran organizations.